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Adventures in Librarianship -- Heroes

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Adventures in Librarianship — Heroes

by **Ned Kraft** (Ralph J. Bunche Library, U.S. Department of State) <kraftno@state.gov>



Several readers have asked about the composition and purpose of the “**Library Justice and Universal Protection Task Force**.” From their Website we’ve learned that they prefer the shortened moniker “The Protectors,” and their mission statement is “the guarantee of universal library services, the return of lost or stolen books, and the general defense of the planet against invaders of any sort.” Though not otherwise well known, one publisher, **Marvel**, has covered “The Protectors” extensively and the following biographical sketches were gleaned from **Marvel** publications.


Dr. Hans Schneider received his MLS degree from **Universitat Stuttgart** in 1981, and his PhD in Hazardous Chemical Management from the **Max Planck Institute** in 1996. After a brief illness in 2002, **Dr. Schneider** began disintegrating distant objects using a beam of dark light projecting from his right index finger. Making the most of that ability, **Dr. Schneider** managed to prevent the allusive, and vaguely-Soviet, **Ivan Slaughter** from subjugating all humanity from his island compound in the South Atlantic. **Dr. Schneider** also retrieved several long-overdue books from the compound. Though his talents are many, an aversion to creamed corn turns the otherwise

good-natured doctor taciturn and seemingly unable to lift his finger.

Miss Molly May was raised an only child on a Minnesota farm, just a stone’s throw from the **Massahopac Nuclear Power Plant**. While working on her MLS at the **University of Illinois**, **Miss May** discovered she could see through walls and other sorts of visual obstacles. She famously used that ability, working in consort with the aforementioned **Dr. Schneider**, to disable several alien spacecraft during a short-lived invasion attempt in the summer of 2004. Since then, **Miss May** has been serving as **ALA’s** Vice-Chair for Book Fines and reading to children at the **Evansburg County Library**. Her unique visual abilities are rendered useless by the presence of her mother, **Anna Belle May**, who is outspoken in her belief that **Molly** should be married and raising children.

Vance Clarkson, after a short stint with the Defense Intelligence Agency, became Head of Technical Services for the **Buddy Hackett Memorial Library, Constant College**, in 1997. **Mr. Clarkson** later used his uncanny mind-reading ability to assist counter-intelligence efforts in Afghanistan, and to press for greater library funding in his home state of Ohio. For

his efforts, **Clarkson** was given **ALA’s** prestigious **Hugo Boss Award** in 2003. It should be noted that his mind-reading ability fails him when his subject is watching television. **Vance Clarkson** currently serves as Secretary for the **Library Justice and Universal Protection Task Force**, a rotating chair.

Henrietta Means learned at an early age, and through many hours searching through her public library, how to focus her pubescent anger and frustration toward impressive acts of physical strength. While working toward her Master of Information Studies degree at **State University**, **Ms Means** did her internship in Costa Rica battling a gigantic half-man half-serpent creature that had risen from the sea. After a few years at the **Library of Congress**, she was hired by the **Institute of Museum and Library Services** where she reviews grant requests. Though she still enjoys saving the world from supernatural creatures, **Ms Means** spends much of her time reading and making small decoupage lapel pins as gifts for her friends. And every urge toward focusing her incredible strength is sapped when faced with a really good **Jimmy Stewart** movie. 

Rumors from page 6

selection of more than 170,000 eBooks and other titles from more than 300 publishers and aggregators. www.absbook.com
www.ebrary.com

WT Cox Subscriptions has entered into an agreement to purchase **Journal Finder** from **The University of North Carolina Greensboro**. **Journal Finder**, the first **OpenURL Link Resolver** to go into production in the United States was created, designed, and has been maintained by the **Electronic Resources and Information Technology staff of UNCG**. The product gives library patrons easy access to the electronic resources the library subscribes to. **Journal Finder** has continually been enhanced from the early days with additional usage reports, expanded linking, ERM, the inclusion of over 11,000 free and Open Access titles, along with many additional features. **Journal Finder** is now being used by over 40 libraries and has a solid reputation because of the dedication and expertise of the **Electronic Resources and Information Department** at UNCG. Leading the **Journal Finder** team for **WT Cox Subscriptions** will be the awesome **Michael Markwith**, who is currently responsible for Academic Sales for **WT Cox Subscriptions**. Before working with **WT Cox**, **Mike** was President of **TDnet**;



Vice-President of Academic Sales at **Swets Blackwell**; and CEO, **Swets & Zeitlinger** (USA & Canada).

www.wtcox.com

Kent Watson (Executive Director, Publishers Association of the West) sends word that the incomparable legend **Richard E. Abel** has been selected as the recipient of the **2008 Jack D. Rittenhouse award**. This award honors those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the book community in the West. **Richard Abel** was selected from a slate of nominees for having established vibrant and profitable publishing businesses that serve as a model to his colleagues. The award will be presented to **Richard** at the **Publishers Association of the West’s National Publishing Conference and Book Industry Trade Show** which will be held on Saturday November 15, 2008. There will be a special luncheon to present the award to **Richard E. Abel**, known as the “father of the modern day library approval plan” and founder of numerous publishing presses including **Timber Press**. As we know through **Richard’s** serialized and continuing “Tale” in **ATG**, **Richard** worked in a bookstore, became a bookstore owner, started a private press for limited edition books, founded a company that grew into an international library distributor, founded a book marketing and distribution company, started a

trade publishing company that has grown into a well respected mid-sized publisher, and is the author of numerous articles and a forthcoming book. The **Rittenhouse Award** is given annually in memory of **Jack D. Rittenhouse**, the West’s consummate bookman. During his long career, **Rittenhouse** was a writer, bookseller, publisher, lecturer and mentor. He left a lasting mark on the book community, both in his work and with the people who followed him and this award was established as a way to honor those who have made outstanding contributions to the book community in the West. Prior winners of the **Rittenhouse Award** are **Jene and Jetta Lyon** (1991), **Fred Pruett** (1992), **David Flaccus** (1993), **Dwight and Carol Myers** (1994), **Gordon Saull** (posthumously in 1995), **Tom Auer** (1996), **Joyce Meskis** (1997), **Tony Hillerman** (1998), **Katharine J. McCanna** (1999), **Lisa Knudsen** (2000), **Robert C. Baron** (2001), **Mary Powell** (2002), **Fredrick A. Praeger** (posthumously in 2003), **Dick and Judy Noyes** (2004), **Elizabeth A. Geiser** (2005), **Linda Ligon** (2006) and **Gibbs Smith** (2007). www.pubwest.org.

Amazon has acquired twelve-year-old Canadian company **AbeBooks** (formerly the **Advanced Book Exchange**), the companies just announced. As we all know, **AbeBooks** is an online marketplace for books focusing on used, rare and out of print titles for sale by independent booksellers — it currently has 110 million books for sale from 13,500 sellers. The company has been around since

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